

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 5-12, 39-45, and 72-78, as set forth below.

Claims 1-31 (Canceled)

1 32. (Previously Presented) A method comprising:
2 receiving a packet at one dispatcher of a plurality of dispatchers, the plurality of
3 dispatchers coupled with a plurality of servers;
4 searching a local dispatch table of said one dispatcher;
5 transmitting the packet from said one dispatcher to a server of the plurality of servers if
6 the local dispatch table identifies the server; and
7 transmitting the packet from said one dispatcher to a locking dispatcher of the plurality of
8 dispatchers if the local dispatch table includes a client lock, the client lock
9 indicating that communications received from a client are to be transmitted to the
10 locking dispatcher until a server is selected for the client.

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1 33. (Original) The method of claim 32, wherein the local dispatch table
2 includes the client lock, the method further comprising:
3 selecting a server from the plurality of servers; and
4 transmitting the packet from the locking dispatcher to the selected server.

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1 34. (Original) The method of claim 33, further comprising broadcasting a
2 dispatch table update from the locking dispatcher to all other dispatchers of the plurality
3 of dispatchers, the dispatch table update identifying the selected server and indicating
4 removal of the client lock.

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1 35. (Previously Presented) A method comprising:
2 receiving a first packet at one dispatcher of a plurality of dispatchers, the first packet
3 including a connection request from a client;
4 creating a client lock on packets received from the client, the client lock indicating that
5 packets received from the client are to be transmitted to said one dispatcher until a
6 server is selected for the client; and
7 broadcasting a dispatch table update from said one dispatcher to all other dispatchers of
8 the plurality of dispatchers, the dispatch table update indicating the client lock.

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1 36. (Original) The method of claim 35, further comprising:
2 receiving at least a second packet at another dispatcher of the plurality of dispatchers; and
3 transmitting the second packet from said another dispatcher to said one dispatcher.

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1 37. (Original) The method of claim 36, further comprising:
2 selecting a server from a plurality of servers coupled with the plurality of dispatchers; and
3 transmitting the first packet and the second packet to the selected server.

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1 38. (Original) The method of claim 37, further comprising broadcasting
2 another dispatch table update from said one dispatcher to said all other dispatchers, said
3 another dispatch table update identifying the selected server and indicating removal of the
4 client lock.

Claims 39-64 (Canceled)

1 65. (Previously Presented) A article of manufacture comprising:
2 a machine accessible medium, the machine accessible medium providing instructions
3 that, when executed by a machine, cause the machine to
4 receive a packet at one dispatcher of a plurality of dispatchers, the plurality of
5 dispatchers coupled with a plurality of servers;
6 search a local dispatch table of said one dispatcher;
7 transmit the packet from said one dispatcher to a server of the plurality of servers
8 if the local dispatch table identifies the server; and
9 transmit the packet from said one dispatcher to a locking dispatcher of the
10 plurality of dispatchers if the local dispatch table includes a client lock, the
11 client lock indicating that communications received from a client are to be
12 transmitted to the locking dispatcher until a server is selected for the
13 client.

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1 66. (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 65, the local dispatch table
2 including the client lock, wherein the instructions, when executed, further cause the
3 machine to:
4 select a server from the plurality of servers; and
5 transmit the packet from the locking dispatcher to the selected server.

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1 67. (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 66, wherein the
2 instructions, when executed, further cause the machine to broadcast a dispatch table
3 update from the locking dispatcher to all other dispatchers of the plurality of dispatchers,
4 the dispatch table update identifying the selected server and indicating removal of the
5 client lock.

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1 68. (Previously Presented) A article of manufacture comprising:
2 a machine accessible medium, the machine accessible medium providing instructions
3 that, when executed by a machine, cause the machine to
4 receive a first packet at one dispatcher of a plurality of dispatchers, the first
5 packet including a connection request from a client;
6 create a client lock on packets received from the client, the client lock indicating
7 that packets received from the client are to be transmitted to said one
8 dispatcher until a server is selected for the client; and
9 broadcast a dispatch table update from said one dispatcher to all other dispatchers
10 of the plurality of dispatchers, the dispatch table update indicating the
11 client lock.

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1 69. (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 68, wherein the
2 instructions, when executed, further cause the machine:
3 receive at least a second packet at another dispatcher of the plurality of dispatchers; and
4 transmit the second packet from said another dispatcher to said one dispatcher.

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1 70. (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 69, wherein the
2 instructions, when executed, further cause the machine to:
3 select a server from a plurality of servers coupled with the plurality of dispatchers; and
4 transmit the first packet and the second packet to the selected server.

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1 71. (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 70, wherein the
2 instructions, when executed, further cause the machine to broadcast another dispatch
3 table update from said one dispatcher to said all other dispatchers, said another dispatch
4 table update identifying the selected server and indicating removal of the client lock.

Claims 72-78 (Canceled)